The Government is implementing a scheme on "Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernization of cold storages of horticulture produce". An additional storage capacity of 31.79 lakh tonnes in 716 cold storages has been created in the country through the scheme.

Post production loss in agriculture sector

†2087. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 25 percent of post production crop is assessed to be lost in agriculture sector of the country;

(b) if not, facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such loss could be minimized with the use of advanced technology; and

(d) if so, facts in this regard and how it compares with loss in agriculture sector at international level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) A Committee headed by Dr. V.G. Panse, in its report submitted in 1968, had estimated annual post harvest losses in the foodgrains in various stages at 9.33%.These included losses during threshing (1.68%), transportation (0.15%), processing (0.92%), rodents (2.50%), birds (0.85), insects (2.55%) and moisture (0.68%). A survey conducted by Directorate of Marketing and inspection, during 1973-74, had estimated post harvest losses in foodgrains to be about 5% out of which the storages losses were estimated at about 2.7%. A Joint survey conducted by the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute and Indian Grain Storage Management and Research Institute during 1985—88 in Bulandshahar district of Uttar Pradesh and estimated total foodgrains losses at about 4.12% due to different factors at various post harvest stages. A loss during storage and transit of foodgrains in the organized sector is however, less than 0.5% and 1.5% respectively.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The high level Committee on Cold Storage and Storage constituted by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under the Chairmanship of Shri JNL Srivastava, Additional Secretary, in its Report of February 1999 has estimated 25% to 30% post-harvest losses in horticultural produce depending upon the produce, season and the length of journey.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) In order to reduce losses to food-grains during the post harvest period, the Government of India had launched the Save Grain Campaign in 1969-70. The main thrust of activities of this Scheme is training, demonstration and publicity in the field of scientific storage of foodgrains at the farm level. Improvement of grain storage structure and popularization of scientific storage structures like metal bins, pucca kothis and RCC ring bins and other activities are carried out by the Save Grain Campaign for the benefit of farmers.

Foodgrains stocks at commercial level are stored by various agencies on scientific lines during which necessary prophylactic and curative measures are undertaken to reduce losses.

In order to promote scientific storage facilites in rural areas and to prevent quantitative and qualitative losses of the produce of the farmers, a Central Sector Scheme of construction/renovation of Rural Godowns titled "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana" is being implemented in the country since 2001-2002. Under the Scheme, Central Government is providing investment subsidy to individual farmers, Self Help Group (SHG), Cooperatives, Corporations, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees etc. Subsidy is provided @25% of the capital cost of the project not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh for each storage project through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). A higher subsidy of 33.3% of capital cost not exceeding Rs. 60.00 lakhs is providing for beneficiaries belonging to SC/ST and for North-Eastern States and hilly areas. So far under the scheme, NABARD has sanctioned 995 projects with a capacity of 59.29 lakh tonnes. In addition, 1575 projects with a capacity of 7.42 lakh tonnes have been sanctioned by NCDC for construction of new rural godowns.

A Capital investment Subsidy Scheme for construction of cold storage is being implemented by National Horticulture Board (NHB)

through NABARD and NCDC to enhance the storage capacity for perishable commodities. Under the scheme, back-ended capital investment subsidy is provided to the eligible organisation @ 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs. 50.00 lakh per project and @ 33.33% of the project cost upto a ceiling Rs. 60.00 lakh per project for North Eastern States. The Board has, so far, approved assistance of Rs. 208.17 crore under the scheme for creation of additional storage capacity of 31.79 lakh tonnes.

No study has been conducted to compare post harvest losses in India with other countries.

Assessment of benefits of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

2088. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the progress and benefit of Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana scheme to farmers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b)The implementation of the Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana (RKBY) was reviewed in the Conference of State Agriculture Ministers held on 14.09.2000 and also in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Export convened on 31st October, 2001. Some recommendations such as rationalization of premium rates, limiting the sum insured, continuation of premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers were made.

Dead palms in Karnataka

2089. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of dead palms of coconut in Karnataka due to drought;